

TELEGRAPHIC SUMMARY.

OFFICIAL DESPATCH FROM GEN. LEE.

RICHMOND, Feb. 5.—The following despatch has just been received:

ORANGE C. H., Feb. 5.—Gen. S. Cooper: On the 30th, Gen. Rosser captured a train of 93 wagons, loaded with United States stores and forage, on the way from New Creek to Petersburg. They also captured 300 mules and 20 prisoners. The guard of 800 infantry escaped to the mountains. Our loss was 250 killed and wounded.

Information of an advance upon Petersburg having been received, the garrison evacuated it during the night. On the 2d, Rosser destroyed the bridges over Patterson Creek and captured 40 prisoners, 270 prisoners, 50 wagons, 1,200 cattle and 500 sheep have been brought off. Gen. Rosser has shown great energy and skill, and his command deserve great credit.

(Signed.) R. E. LEE, General.

IMPORTANT FROM FLORIDA—THE ENEMY IN FORCE AT JACKSONVILLE—OFFICIAL DESPATCH FROM GEN. FINEGAN.

LAKE CITY, Fla., Feb. 8, (via Savannah Feb. 11 y 8).—To General Thomas for an: Eighteen vessels, gunboats and transports, are reported by the commanding officer at Camp Finegan, as having arrived at Jacksonville. The enemy, presumed to be in large force, has landed, and was said to be advancing last night.

THE NEWS FROM RICHMOND.

RICHMOND, February 8.—Hon. Jno. A. Wilcox, of Texas, a member of the House of Representatives, dropped dead in a moment at his room yesterday morning, while apparently in perfect health. No business was transacted to day in either House of Congress, except the announcement of his death and the passage of appropriate resolutions. Eulogies were pronounced in the Senate by Mr. Wigfall of Texas, Henry of Tennessee, and Phelan of Mississippi; and in the House by Saxton of Texas, Smith of North Carolina, McKee of Mississippi, and Adkins and Jones of Tennessee.

Gamble, the Yankee Governor of Missouri, died on the 2d instant.

Geo. R. Riddle, a strong Unionist, succeeds Bayard, of Delaware, in the Yankee Senate.

Our latest information from below represents that the Yankees have taken the back track from Williamsburg. Their movement was probably intended as a reconnaissance merely.

The impression prevails here that the next campaign will begin at an early day; but active hostilities on the Rapidan will, probably, be delayed until the recovery of Meade, who, at last accounts, was convalescent, at his home in Pennsylvania. The weather is favorable for military movements.

LATEST FROM EAST TENNESSEE.

MORRISTOWN, Feb. 8.—Reports from Knoxville, coming from various sources, represent the garrison there to be in a state of great suffering owing to a scarcity of rations and to the small pox, of which there are 700 cases. The prisoners we have captured have, in their haversacks, bread made of unbolsted flour. Col. H. L. Gilmer, of the 4th Kentucky cavalry, has been commissioned a Brigadier General. Our trains, yesterday, ran to Strawberry Plains, fifteen miles of Knoxville.

FROM NORTHERN VIRGINIA.

ORANGE C. H., Feb. 8.—One Yankee Captain and thirty nine privates, captured at Burnett's Ford, by General Early's division, were brought in this morning. The enemy crossed at that ford early this morning, but soon recrossed again.

IMPORTANT FROM THE WEST—SHERMAN ADVANCING IN FORCE—THE FIGHTING BEGINS.

OKALONA, Miss., Feb. 5.—There are no signs of the enemy in Northern Mississippi or West Tennessee, except at Memphis and Germantown, the Yankee programme is to advance from Vicksburg into Central Alabama, cutting off our communications with Mobile, so as to necessitate the abandonment of that place. Our forces now occupy Corinth and Jackson. The enemy's cavalry in strong force crossed the Big Black yesterday. Gen. Jackson's cavalry oppose them. Lovely times are ahead, as it is thought that the enemy contemplate a general advance.

CLINTON, Miss., February 4.—Sherman, with two corps, under Archer and Hurlbut, is advancing. General Jackson has fought them all day. The enemy made but two miles progress to day, camping six or eight miles below this place. Prisoners report that 30,000 of their troops, in all, have crossed the Big Black. We whipped the Yankee cavalry yesterday on the Yazoo, in a hand to hand conflict with pistols.

JACKSON, Miss., Feb. 4.—The enemy began crossing the Big Black yesterday. He threw across (at the railroad bridge) six regiments of infantry and two of cavalry, with two batteries. He attempted to cross also at Messenger's Ferry, but failed, and is now trying to cross at Birdsong's. Much excitement prevails here.

FROM EAST TENNESSEE.

MORRISTOWN, Feb. 6.—Private Geo. Smith, Company A, 43d Alabama Regiment, was shot here to day for desertion.

Major Gittens' command, of the 1st Tennessee, the enemy's command, is now in possession of the upper waters of the Holston.

LATEST CONGRESSIONAL NEWS.

RICHMOND, Feb. 4.—In the Senate, yesterday, Mr. Sparrow, from the Military Committee, reported back the House bill to amend the Anti-Substitute law in relation to farmers, with recommendation that they do not pass it. No action was taken on the report.

It is understood that the House, in secret session to-day, passed the Military bill and sent it back to the Senate for future consideration by that body. It is said to have been extensively amended and altered in the House.

It is understood that the Senate, in secret session, passed the currency bill which was sent to that body by the House some time ago, though considerably amended and changed. It was sent back to the House for further consideration.

The Senate will next take up the Tax bill in secret session.

The House is understood to be still in session on the Military bill.

FROM CHARLESTON.

CHARLESTON, Feb. 9th, 1864.—The enemy advanced from Seabrook's Island this morning, about daylight, with a force supposed to be about five to our one. An effort was made to hold them in check, but so far they are still pressing us back, with artillery, rifled pieces and infantry. Our pickets, in falling back, were forced to leave some of our wounded in the enemy's hands. Captain Humphrey has been shot in two places, and had his horse shot under him. At nine o'clock, a. m. (Tuesday) the enemy had advanced one mile and a half from the Harlow, on John's Island.

LATEST FROM EUROPE AND THE UNITED STATES.

The following is a summary of the latest European and Northern news:

Denmark absolutely rejects the ultimatum of Prussia and Austria calling for a withdrawal of the November Constitution, upon the penalty of their joint occupation of Schleswig Holstein. In consequence of this refusal the envoys of those powers left Copenhagen. Austrian troops were on their way to occupy Schleswig Holstein.

The proposition for a new French loan of twelve million pounds sterling met with extraordinary success, the bids exceeding thirteen times the amount required.

The London Stock Exchange was feverish in consequence of the warlike aspect of affairs in Germany.

The Confederate Loan was quoted at 44.

Cotton was lower, and breadstuffs advanced. The Yankee House of Representatives has passed the bill reviving the grade of Lieutenant General, and have recommended General Grant for the position.

James B. Clay died recently in Canada.

A New Orleans letter to the New York Herald, dated January 24th, says: "In all parts of this city it is believed that Mobile is about being attacked by Farragut on the water and by the troops under Gen. Banks on land."

La France says the C. S. steamer Florida has challenged the Kearsage to a fair fight. The latter having accepted, they intend to go a few miles out to sea and settle difference at cannon range.

The Alabama has destroyed the Yankee ship Contest in the Straits of Sunda. The vessel and cargo were valued at one million dollars. Gold is unchanged at 146.

LONGSTREET.—Whatever may have been the misfortune and folly (says the Richmond Examiner) of detaching Gen. Longstreet from the main army of Tennessee, on the eve of an important engagement, yet no one acquainted with the facts can doubt that his operations in Upper Tennessee, considered in themselves, have been highly successful and vastly beneficial to the cause. The failure before Knoxville was due to no fault of Gen. Longstreet, but partly to a train of circumstances over which he had no control, and partly to the vacillating orders of the ill-starred Bragg. The capture of Knoxville could have brought no permanent advantage. Since the fall of Chattanooga and Cumberland Gap, it is untenable by Confederate arms, except at a great cost of troops, against any considerable body of the enemy; for it is liable to attack in front from Chattanooga, in flank from Kingston, and in rear from Cumberland Gap. If Gen. Longstreet had taken the town, to have held it he would have had to post an army looking in each of these three directions, each one sufficient to withstand assault in any force the enemy might bring from that quarter. The present position of Gen. Longstreet's army is infinitely more tenable and more judicious; occupying, as it does, an arc of a circle bending around from Russellville to Mooresburg, Tennessee, into Lee County, Virginia; covering all the best portion of East Tennessee and South-western Virginia.

The command of Gen. Longstreet was greatly strengthened on entering the country above Knoxville by the admirable division of Maj. Gen. Ransom. These commands have done more fighting in East Tennessee than the same number of troops have done before during the war in the same length of time, and have completely foiled Burnside and Grant in their confident expectation of wintering unmolested, on the upper waters of the Holston.

A new vessel is now in construction in the United States, armed vessels at a cost of \$365,000 each, to be completed in six months.

THE CAMDEN JOURNAL

FRIDAY MORNING, FEB. 12, 1864.

The impressment of private property for public use, either with or without compensation, is a measure so repugnant to natural justice, that it is rarely resorted to even by despotic governments. If it be true, as some writers on the subject assert, that governments are instituted merely for the protection of property, and can exist only while they do protect it, then the exercise of the power of impressment, (for it can not be called a right,) is an act suicidal in its nature. No constitutional government would venture to exercise such a power except upon the great emergency, and when it could be clearly shown that the trespass upon private right was indispensable to the public safety.

In England, the right of the crown to the exercise of this power, as a part of its prerogative, has never been conceded by the people, and we, in America, have been equally jealous. There is not, probably, on the face of the globe, a people more sensitive on this subject than the people of the Confederate States; and it is one of the strongest proofs of their devotion to the cause in which they are engaged, that they have borne, so long and so patiently, the exercise, by their government, of a right which finds no justification in necessity, and no palliation in the manner of its enforcement.

Our own Constitution does not confer, upon either Congress or the President, the right to impress private property under certain circumstances, or under any circumstances. Its language is not even permissive. It simply says: "private property shall not be taken for public use without just compensation." It recognizes the possibility that great emergencies may arise, such as would necessitate the invasion of private right, and therefore makes provision for indemnifying the injured party; but it goes no farther. It does not give the slightest hint to guide one in ascertaining what combination of circumstances shall be deemed to constitute an emergency sufficiently grave to justify the taking of private property for public use. If, in navigating the ship of State, storms are encountered and a jettison of part of the cargo is necessary to the preservation of the vessel and crew, compensation shall be made by a general average. That is the whole provision on the subject. And yet for many months, an ill-considered and most oppressive system of impressment, odious in all its features, daily odious in the manner of its execution, and trebly odious in the number of abuses and frauds and corruptions which grow out of it, has been established in our midst. Justified by no paramount public necessity, other than that which seems to have been specially created as its apology, it has been endured with a patience as admirable as its abuses have been flagrant. And if ever she gave cause of "the producers of the Confederacy" vs Mr. Commissary General Northrop comes to be tried before the bar of History, the world will stand amazed at the record. We never think of the subject without having forcibly recalled to our mind the story which Dr. Wolcott used to tell of a knavish landlord in the suburbs of London, who used to persuade his guests (when they happened to be credulous) to entrust their valuables to his safekeeping, least they should be robbed in crossing Blackheath.

But we did not intend, when we began this article, to say so much about impressment. We only designed to introduce to the notice of our readers the following brief paragraph from the Richmond correspondence of the Charleston Mercury:

A writer in the Whig proposes to obviate the mischief and the misery of impressments by a very simple plan, viz: issuing proposals for contracts for army supplies to the lowest bidder, to be paid for in cotton and tobacco. This seems to me to be the long sought formula. I hear informally that General Lee favors the plan.

For our own part, we cordially approve the plan, and sincerely hope it will be adopted. The contractors will probably make enormous fortunes, but they will have fairly earned them, and the thanks of the people to boot.

MR. BOYCE AND THE TITE BARNACLES AT RICHMOND.

Some days ago, Mr. Boyce of So. Cal., introduced, into the House of Representatives, the following resolution:

"Resolved, That the President be respectfully requested to inform the House whether any officers of the regular or provisional army, or of the navy, or in the civil service, appointed during the existence of the Provisional Government, and confirmed by the Provisional Congress, are now holding office without having been re-nominated and confirmed by the Senate, under the re-nominated Constitution, and if so, the names of said officers."

"On motion of Mr. Saxton, of Tennessee, the Resolution was laid upon the table—ayes 5, noes 20."

Upon this the Charleston Courier comments as follows:

Twenty members of the very highest moment, which can only be obtained from the Departments of Government; and fifty members say they shall not have it. We doubt if the entire annals of Legislation will afford a parallel to this vote. In mere courtesy to twenty members desiring information, their colleagues might have consented to accord it, but they voted as if the information would positively hurt them.

Mr. Boyce, we suppose, is one of the men "who wanted to know; you know" and of course distasteful to the barnacles.

VICE-PRESIDENT STEPHENS.—Our readers will be gratified to learn that a despatch received in Richmond states that the health of Vice-President Stephens is improving. He was recently in Savannah, and will be in Augusta, while on his way to

the States.

VICE-PRESIDENT STEPHENS.—Our readers will be gratified to learn that a despatch received in Richmond states that the health of Vice-President Stephens is improving. He was recently in Savannah, and will be in Augusta, while on his way to

the States.

VICE-PRESIDENT STEPHENS.—Our readers will be gratified to learn that a despatch received in Richmond states that the health of Vice-President Stephens is improving. He was recently in Savannah, and will be in Augusta, while on his way to

the States.

The Society gratefully acknowledge the following donations:

Mrs. J. Whitaker, 2 bushels meal; Mrs. B. Boykin, half bush., do; Mrs. J. DeSaussure, \$10; Mrs. J. Lee, 1 bushel peas; Miss Mary L. Boykin, nice things for a wounded soldier; Mrs. L. L. Whitaker, for "Soldiers' Rest," one bushel potatoes and meat; Mrs. Cureton, \$5; from a friend, one ham, one bushel peas.

Mrs. J. Lee, Pres. B. S.

Camden, Feb. 8, '64.

GEN. HOOD.—We learn that this distinguished officer has been promoted to a Lieutenant-Generalcy, and will take command in about two weeks. The corps to which he has been assigned is understood to be that formerly under Gen. D. H. Hill, in the army of Gen. Johnston.

Gen. McLaws is now at Morristown, for the purpose of answering the charges against him by General Longstreet.

La France says that the Florida has challenged the United States gunboat Kearsage to a fair fight, and that the latter having accepted, they intend to go a few miles out to sea, to settle their differences at the cannon's mouth.

The Alabama has destroyed the Yankee ship Contest in the Straits of Sunda. The vessel and cargo were valued at one million dollars.

The cheapest place is in the army—the safest place is in the navy—the noblest position is a country fighting for its liberty in the front ranks of the line of battle.

CHANGE OF COMMANDERS.—The management of the Department of Southwest Virginia, under command of Major General Sam Jones, has been changed. The President has relieved Gen. Jones and assigned Major General John C. Breckinridge to the command of the department in question. It is to be hoped that this new appointment will prevent the recurrence of those raids by the enemy which have so lately been made a feature of Southwestern Virginia, or may result in the capture of some of the raiders.

From the South Carolinian.

THE SMALL POX.

As small pox is becoming epidemic in many parts of the Confederacy, the press should assist in extending the subjoined recommendation. The fly trap or pitcher plant grows abundantly, and can be found extensively in South Carolina. It can be used as a tincture, or in decoction, as is suggested below. It can also be obtained at all drug stores. If we have really an antidote to this dreadful scourge and loathsome disease in an innocent plant, which grows all around us, there is no better time than the present to establish its efficacy and extend its usefulness:

[EXTRACT.]

To the Editor of the Evening Mail, London, England.

SIR: * * * * *

Some time ago, seeing a paper written by Assistant Surgeon Miles, of the Royal Artillery, on the efficacy of the North American plant, called the *saracenia purpurea* or pitcher plant, in the treatment of small pox among the Indians, my colleague (Mr. Agnis) and myself have given this remedy, which has been imported into this country by Dr. Miles, a fair trial, and I am happy to say the eleven cases in our hands have recovered under its peculiar influence.

This remedy I consider a boon to the public, for this reason—it is so easily managed, any one can make a decoction or infusion of the root, like tea.

An ounce of the root is sliced and infused in a quart of water and allowed to simmer down to a pint, and given in two table spoonful, doses every four hours, while the patient is well nourished with beef tea and arrow root. Four of the cases in my hospital have been severe confluent cases; ("confluent" means where the head face and neck are swollen into a misshapen mass, and the pustules thickly running into each other;) they have throughout the disease all been perfectly sensible, have had excellent appetites, been free from pain, and have never felt weak. The effects of this medicine, which I have carefully watched, seemed to arrest the development of the pustules, killing, as it were, the virus from within, thereby changing the character of the disease, and doing away with the cause of pitting, (if I may so express myself to the uninitiated,) and thus avoiding the necessity of gutta-serena and india rubber applications, or of opening the pustules. In my opinion, all anticipations of disfigurement from pitting may now be calmed, if this medicine is given from the commencement of the disease.

Before leaving this subject, I may here caution the public that the useful part of the plant is its root, as recommended by Dr. Miles. With the usual kindness of Dr. Gibson, the Director General, I have been amply supplied with it for the use of my regiment. So much am I impressed with the efficacy of it in small pox over the old mode of treatment, that I hope to hear of it in every country gentleman's medicine chest, and before long that we shall see no more faces as described by Dickens, like the

in the "Pickwick" puffs. I am, sir,

Yours, &c.

LOGIE,

the